

Application No. 10/799,728  
Amendment dated September 23, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of June 23, 2005

Docket No.: 2846-0307PUS1

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An umbrella stand adapted to hold an support an umbrella in an upright manner, comprising:

a bottom block adapted to position on a fixed surface and defining a bottom bore, said bottom block forms a pin inside the bottom bore for engaging a spring-biased pawl mounted to a post of the umbrella to thereby couple the umbrella to the stand;

a top block located above the bottom block defining a top bore aligned with the bottom bore; and

a middle block interposed between the top and bottom blocks and defining a middle bore axially aligned with the top and bottom bores whereby the blocks ~~forms~~ form a vertical stack with the aligned bores and adapted to receive a post of umbrella;

engaging and positioning means form between the bottom block and the middle block and between the middle block and the top block for properly positioning the bottom, middle and top blocks with respect the each other; and

finger accommodation cavities formed between adjacent ones of the blocks adapted to receive fingers of a person for moving the blocks.

2. (Currently Amended) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each block has upper and lower faces, the lower face being positioned on and contacting the upper face of the lower next one of the ~~block~~ blocks in the vertical stack.

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3. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the finger accommodation cavities comprise recesses defined in the lower face of each block.

4. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the engaging and positioning means comprises mateable pits and bosses formed on upper and lower faces of the adjacent blocks that contact each other.

5. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the top block has an upper face on which decorative patterns are formed.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 6, wherein a diametrically extending notch is defined a bottom end of the post to partially fit over the pin.

8. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1 comprising at least two middle blocks interposed between the top and bottom blocks.

9. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising an extension post having a lower end fit into the bores of the stacked blocks of the stand and an upper end adapted to engage a post of the umbrella.

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10. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a diametrically extending notch is defined in the lower end of the extension post to partially fit over the pin and a pin is mounted to the upper end of the extension post for engaging a spring-biased pawl mounted to the post of the umbrella to thereby couple the umbrella to the stand.

11. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1, wherein at least one of the bottom bore, the middle bore and the top bore forms an internal threading engageable with an external threading of the post of the umbrella that is received in the aligned bores.

12. (Original) The umbrella stand as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the bottom bore forms an internal threading engageable with an external threading of the post of the umbrella that is received in the aligned bores.

13. (New) An umbrella stand adapted to hold an support an umbrella in an upright manner, comprising:

a bottom block adapted to position on a fixed surface and defining a bottom bore;

a top block located above the bottom block defining a top bore aligned with the bottom bore; and

a middle block interposed between the top and bottom blocks and defining a middle bore axially aligned with the top and bottom bores whereby the blocks form a vertical stack with the aligned bores and adapted to receive a post of umbrella;

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engaging and positioning means form between the bottom block and the middle block and between the middle block and the top block for properly positioning the bottom, middle and top blocks with respect the each other; and

finger accommodation cavities formed between adjacent ones of the blocks adapted to receive fingers of a person for moving the blocks,

wherein the bottom bore forms an internal threading engageable with an external threading of the post of the umbrella that is received in the aligned bores.

14. (New) An umbrella stand adapted to hold an support an umbrella in an upright manner, comprising:

a bottom block adapted to position on a fixed surface and defining a bottom bore;

a top block located above the bottom block defining a top bore aligned with the bottom bore; and

a middle block interposed between the top and bottom blocks and defining a middle bore axially aligned with the top and bottom bores whereby the blocks form a vertical stack with the aligned bores and adapted to receive a post of umbrella;

engaging and positioning means form between the bottom block and the middle block and between the middle block and the top block for properly positioning the bottom, middle and top blocks with respect the each other;

finger accommodation cavities formed between adjacent ones of the blocks adapted to receive fingers of a person for moving the blocks; and

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an extension post having a lower end fit into the bores of the stacked blocks of the stand and an upper end adapted to engage a post of the umbrella, wherein a diametrically extending notch is defined in the lower end of the extension post to partially fit over the pin and a pin is mounted to the upper end of the extension post for engaging a spring-biased pawl mounted to the post of the umbrella to thereby couple the umbrella to the stand.

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